## 'LENA RIVERS.

CHAPTER XXVIII.

MRS. GRAHAM'S RETURN. Mr. and Mrs. Graham had returned to Woodlawn, the former remaining but'a day and night, and then, without once seeing 'Lena, departing for Europe, where business, either fancied or real, called him. Often when lying weary and sick in Havana, had he resolved on revealing to his wife the secret which he felt was wearing his life away, but the cowardice of his nature seemed increased by phys ical weakness, and from time to time was the disclosure postponed, while the chain of evidence was fearfully lengthening around poor 'Lena, to whom Mrs. Graham had transferred the entire weight of her

Loving her husband as well as such as she could love, she was ever ready to forgive when she saw any indications of reform on his part, and as during all their journey had he never once given her cause for offense, she began to attribute his former delinquencies wholly to 'Lena; and when he proposed a tour to Europe she readily sanctioned it, hoping that time and absence would remove from his mind all thoughts of the beautiful girl who she thought was her rival. Still, though she would not confess it, in her heart she did not believe 'Lena guilty exheart she did not believe 'Lena guilty ex-cept so far as a desire to attract Mr. Graham's attention would make her so.

For this belief she had a good and potent reason. The daguerreotype which had caused so much trouble was still in her possession, guarded carefully from her husband, who never suspecting the truth, supposed he had lost it. Frequent-ly had Mrs. Graham examined the picture each time discovering some point of dif-ference between it and its supposed original. Still she never for a moment doubted that it was 'Lena, until an event occurred which convinced her of the contrary, leaving her, meantime, more mysti-

On their way home from Havana, Mr. Graham had proposed stopping a day in Cincinnati, taking rooms at the Burnet House, where the first individual whom they saw at the table was our old acquaintance, Joel Slocunt. Not finding his business as profitable in Lexington as he could wish, he had recently moved to Cincunnatt. Here his aspiring mind had prompted him to board at the Burnet House, until he'd see the "Ohio elephant," when he intended retiring to one of the cheaper boarding-houses. The moment he saw Mr. Graham, a gin of recognition became visible on his face, bringing to view a row of very long and very yellow teeth, apparently unacquainted with the use of either water or brush.

"What is that loafer who seems to know you?" select Mrs. Graham directing her

you?" asked Mrs. Graham, directing her husband's attention toward Joel. Mr. Graham replied that " he had once seen him in Lexington, and that he took

daguerreotypes.'
The moment ent dinner was over, Joe came forward, going through with one of his wonderful boy's and exclaiming, with his peculiar natal twang, "Now you don't say this is you. And this is your old woman, I s'pose. Miss Graham, how-dy-du? Darned if you don't look like Aunt Nancy, only she's lean and you are squatty. S'nosin' you give me a call and get y. S'posin' you give me a call and get your picters taken. I diden't get an all-killin' sight of practice in Lexington, for the plaguy green-horns didn't know enough to patternize me, and 'taint a tar-nation sight better here; but you," turn-ing to Mr. Graham, "amployed me, once

the plaguy green-horns didn't know enough to patternize me, and taint a tarnation sight better here; but you," turning to Mr. Graham, "employed me once, and pretended to be suited."

Mr. Graham turned scarlet, and saying something in an undertone to Joel, gare his wife his arm, leading her to their room, where he made an exouse for leaving her awhile. Looking from the window a moment after, Mrs. Graham saw him walking down the street in close conversation with Joel, who, by the way of showing his importance, lifted his white beaver to almost every man he met. Instant ly her curiosity was roused, and when her husband returned, every motion of his was narrowly watched, the espionage resulting in the conviction that there was something in his possession which he did not wish her to see. Once, when she came unexpectedly upon him, he hastly thrust something into his pocket, appearing so much confused that she resolved to ferret out the secret.

Accordingly, that night, when assured by his heavy breathing that he was asleep, she crept sortly from his side, and rum maging his pockets, found a dagetere-type, which by the full moonlight she saw was a fac-simile of the one she had in a paroxysm of rage she alarmed the saw was a fac-simile of the one she had in a lord of the result iter and a principle of the matters not.

I see it madam," answered Malcolm, without deigning to move.

O'Dige met by passing out," continued that her mow there are subtant my through the capture strength in a parameter of the strange with my author of the suit she shall never become the bride of that old man," answered Malcolm. "I shall hever become the bride of that old man," answered Malcolm. "I will be winter asked, and when next the capture white face, consented to all that her mow there asked, and when next the capture white face, consented to all that her mow there asked, and when next the capture white saked, and there threatening to eloope with my darked Malcolm. "I will be winter asked, and when next the capture while the convision wi

Accordingly, that night, when assured by his heavy breathing that he was night he hys night he was not been she crept softly from his side, and rummaging his pockets, found a daguere-type, which by the full moonlight she saw was a fur-simile of the one she had in her possession. The arrangement of the hair—everything—was the same, and utterly confounded, she stood gazing first at one and then at the other, wondering what it meant. Could 'Lena be in the city? She though not, and even if she were, the last daguerrectype was not so much like her; she funded as the first as she had done its companion, and steat the same had done its companion, and seed that day. Of course 'Lena could not have been absent from home. Mrs. Graham felt convinced of that, and gradually are been absent from home. Mrs. Graham felt convinced of that, and gradually are been absent from home. Mrs. Graham felt convinced of that, and gradually the conversation and the crisis had been absent from home. Mrs. Graham felt convinced of that, and gradually a the conviction came upon her that another than 'Lena was the original of the dugner roctypes. And yet she was not generous enough to tell Durward so. She kine whe was deceived—she wished him to remain so—and to effect it, she refrainal of the dugner of course, exonerate 'Lena from all blame. The consequence of this she were there was a misunderstanding between the was a misunderstanding between the was a full of the result, and the she had been conventioned of the state of the convention of the convention of the provider of the crisis had for the crisis had she was but the pictures, he would be gained.

"Pho! that's easy enough," said the provided 'Anna's consent is fat hands and smoothing his colored whiskers—"Bring her in here, and I'll own here was a misunderstanding between the was decived, the she were the convention of the decided, as the she was the original of the degue the convention of the provider of the convention of the provider of the provider of the provider of the provider of the

Livingstone, and was sorry for it, for I do and John Jr. were now away, and she had

dear Mabel had impaired her health."

"Perhaps there are other causes which may affect her," returned Mrs. Graham, with a meaning look, which, though lost on Mrs. Livingstone, was noticed by Durward, who soon proposed leaving.

On their way home, his mother asked if he observed 'Lena, when Mr. Graham was mentioned.

Without saying that he did, Durward replied. "I noticed your remark to Mrs. Livingstone, and was sorry for it, for I do not wish you to say a word which will throw the least shade of suspnion upon 'Lena. Her reputation as yet is good, and you must not be the first to say aught against it."

Without saying that he did, Durward replied, "I noticed your remark to Mrs. Livingstone, and was sorry for it, for I do not wish you to say a word which will throw the least shade of suspnion upon 'Lena. Her reputation as yet is good, and you must not be the first to say aught against it."

Without saying that he did, Durward replied, "I noticed your remark to Mrs. Christian and the result of the interview.

But week after week glided by. Mrs. Livingstone's persecutions ceased, and she sometimes herself handed to Anna Malcolm's letters, which came regularly, and when about the first of March Captain Ahner to himself went off to Washington, Anna gave her fears to the wind, and all the day long went singing about the bouse, unmindful of the snare laid for her she scarcely thou with unflinching do no her way.

To be saying that he did, Durward replied, "I noticed your remark to Mrs."

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Livingstone, and was sorry for it, for 1 do not with you to say a word which will the company of the control of

"You, a low-born Yankee, who have been as it were, an hireling. You presume to ask for my daughter?"

"I do," he answered calmly, with a quiet smile, tenfold more tantalizing than harsh words would have been, "I do, an I have her with your consent?"

Never, so long as I live. I'd somether her dead than wedded to vulgar poverty."

"That is your answer. Very well," asaid Malcolm, bowing stiffly. "And now I will hear yours," turning to Mare the matter entirely with his wife—it was nothing to him—he nad nothing personal an against Mr. Everett—he rather liked him than otherwise, but he hardly thought up so differently;" and thus evasively an assured to him, she had been brought up so differently;" and thus evasively an assured to him, she had been brought up so differently;" and thus evasively answering, he walked away.

"Cowardly fool!" muttered Mrs. Livingstone, as the door closed upon him." If I pretend to be a man, I'd be one; "then turning to Malcolm, she said, "Is there anything further you wish to say?" "Nothing," he replied. "I have honorably asked you for your daughter." "Are you in earnest?" asked Mrs. Livingstone, asterly was Anna's brief answer, which somewhat! of the consequence."

"And pray what may that be?" she

You have refused her, and must abide the consequence."

"And pray what may that be?" she asked, and he answered: "She will soon be of an age to act for herself, and though I would far rather take her with your consent, I shall not then hesitate to take her without, if you still persist in opposing her."

"There is the door," said Mrs. Livingstone rising.

"I see it madam," answered Malcolm, without deigning to move.

"In earnest? Yes—try me and see," was Anna's brief answer, which somewhat I puzzled her mother, who would in reality have preferred opposition to this unnat ural passiveness.

But anything to gain her purpose, she thought, and drawing Anna closely to her side, she very gently and affectionately told her how happy it would make her could she see her the wi'e of Captain Atherton, who had loved and waited for her so long, and who would leave no wish, however slight, ungratified, And Anna

and it will soon be ever a state of the hiss wife.

To effect this, she endeavored, during the winter, to keep the matter almost constantly before Durward's mind, frequently referring to Lena's agitation when she first learned that Mr. Graham had started for Europe. She had called with her son at Maple Grove on the very than the state of the Unnatural mother!-from the little grave on the sunny slope, now grass-grown and green, came there no warning voice to stay her in her purpose? No; she scarcely thought of Mabel now, and with unflinching determination she kept

To be continued.

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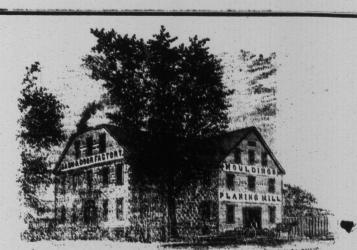
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